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Message Text

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ORIGIN STR-02

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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 083883

LIMDIS, USEEC, USMTN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

1. PLEASE DELIVER AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE, THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR STRAUSS TO EC VICE PRESIDENT FINN GUNDELACH.

BEGIN TEXT

A. DEAR FINN

B. I AM PLEASED THAT OUR COLLEAGUES' MEETING IN EVIAN MADE PROGRESS TOWARD MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND ACCOMMODATION,
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EVEN THOUGH MAJOR DIFFERENCES STILL REMAIN. I HOPE THAT YOU AND I CAN NARROW THOSE DIFFERENCES STILL FURTHER ON APRIL 7TH. IN THAT REGARD, I THINK IT WILL BE USEFUL TO SHARE WITH YOU MY ASSESSMENT OF WHERE WE NOW STAND.

C. WHEN WE MET ON MARCH 9TH IN WASHINGTON, IT WAS AGREED THAT MEANINGFUL PROGRESS ON AGRICULTURE WAS ESSENTIAL TO

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THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE MTN. BOTH SIDES HAD CERTAIN POLITICAL IMPERATIVES WHICH HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE FINAL AGRICULTURAL PACKAGE. WITH RESPECT TO

GRAINS, YOU CLEARLY STATED THAT THE COMMUNITY NEEDED ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR IMPROVED PRICE STABILITY. I INDICATED THAT IMPROVED ACCESS TO THE EC COARSE GRAIN MARKET WAS EQUALLY FUNDAMENTAL TO THE U.S.

D. THE EVIAN MEETING PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AN IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION OF BOTH OUR AND YOUR OBJECTIVES WITH RESPECT TO GRAINS AND MEASURES WHICH MIGHT BE USED TO ACHIEVE THEM. HOWEVER, PROGRESS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN UNEVEN.

E. WITH RESPECT TO THE ISSUES OF PRIMARY INTEREST TO THE COMMUNITY, THERE WAS A GOOD TECHNICAL DISCUSSION OF MEASURES WHICH COULD LEAD TO GREATER STABILITY IN COARSE GRAIN MARKETS, INCLUDING THE IMPACT OF STOCKS AND UTILIZATION ADJUSTMENTS. OUR RESPECTIVE IDEAS REGARDING STOCK SIZE AND THE DEGREE OF STABILITY WHICH MIGHT BE ACHIEVABLE ARE ALSO CLEARER, AS IS THE INTER-ACTION OF ANY AGREEMENT WITH U.S. AND COMMUNITY DOMESTIC PROGRAMS. IN ADDITION, GREATER UNDERSTANDING WAS REACHED REGARDING THE WORKINGS OF A PRICE MECHANISM IN A WHEAT AGREEMENT.

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F. UNFORTUNATELY, THE DISCUSSIONS LAST WEEK DID NOT IDENTIFY ANY MEANS OF PROVIDING ASSURANCE OF MEANINGFUL ACCESS TO THE COMMUNITY'S MARKET FOR COARSE GRAINS. YOUR COLLEAGUES REJECTED THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY COMMITMENT BY THE COMMUNITY TO INCREASED MARKET ACCESS THROUGH A MODIFICATION OF BORDER MEASURES. IT WAS ALSO CLEAR FROM THE DISCUSSIONS THAT AN EC STOCKHOLDING OBLIGATION WOULD NOT GIVE THE U.S. ANY INCREASED ACCESS ON A CONTINUING BASIS. WHILE SOME LIMITED BENEFITS MIGHT ACCRUE TO THE UNITED STATES FROM THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSED REDUCTION OF THE INTERVENTION PRICE FOR BEEF AND THE PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS TO PRODUCERS, IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER NEGOTIATED COMMITMENTS IN THE AREA OF INTERNAL PRICES/SUBSIDIES DESIGNED TO INCREASE GRAIN UTILIZATION WOULD BE POSSIBLE.

G. I BELIEVE THAT A GOOD START WAS MADE IN EVIAN AND UNDERSTAND THAT A FOLLOW-UP MEETING IS SCHEDULED APRIL 18-19. HOWEVER, IF WE ARE TO MAKE BALANCED PROGRESS IN THIS AREA, I SUGGEST THAT YOU AND I SHOULD FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON APRIL 7 ON THE QUESTION OF ACCESS OR OTHER MEASURES DESIGNED TO INCREASE GRAIN UTILIZATION IN THE COMMUNITY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE DIRECTION FOR SUBSEQUENT

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WORK BY OUR COLLEAGUES.

H. I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN COPENHAGEN.

SINCERELY YOURS,

(SIGN BOB)

ROBERT S. STRAUSS

END TEXT. COOPER

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